

In January of 2007 Governor Otter created an executive order encouraging a comprehensive perspective on energy expansion for Idaho. Its purpose is to insure that Idaho has adequate, reliable, and affordable energy into the future while, at the same time, protecting our natural resources and facilitating economic growth. The initial mandate was based upon the National 25x'25 Initiative, which envisioned meeting 25% of our nation's energy needs primarily via the agriculture and forestry sectors by 2025. The Governor's mandate was assigned to the Office of Energy Resources, and was expanded to include encouraging the development of renewable and sustainable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation, greenhouse gas/carbon considerations and energy development in general. Their charter:

- *To provide policy direction and planning aimed at increasing the State of Idaho's production of energy.*
- *To improve cooperation, collaboration and information sharing among public and private sector entities in the area of energy.*
- *To further explore and define the overarching contribution agricultural and forestry sectors can make as energy producers.*
- *To seek out new and innovative means to increase production of energy in Idaho.*
- *To enable the development of a sound energy portfolio for Idaho that includes diverse energy resources and production methods, that provides the highest value to the citizens of Idaho, that ensures quality stewardship of environmental resources, and that functions as an effective, secure, and stable system.*

A structure was created for the initiative which would allow a wide variety of stakeholders to have representation and play a role in developing energy plans and strategies for Idaho's energy future. Included in this structure are local, state, tribal, and federal governments as well as profit and not-for-profit private sectors, fostering a coordinated approach to energy development through stakeholder participation. The structure is comprised of three levels: the Governor's Council (cabinet members), the Board of Directors (a carefully selected group of executives who have a global perspective on energy issues), and Task Forces which are comprised of experts in energy areas including wind, geothermal, and biofuels.